GUIDO MORSELLI

DISSIPATIO H.G.

Morselli's prose stands out for its great stylistic care and incisiveness that manages to capture the reader's attention, with a narrative structure that is not always conventional. Despite his death in 1973, his works have influenced subsequent authors and continue to be the subject of critical studies. His writing, which challenges conventions and plays with genres, has found resonance in contemporary literature, making him a figure of particular interest to scholars of twentieth-century Italian literature.

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One of his best-known novels is certainly *Dissipatio H.G.*, the last one written by Morselli, a few months before his death by suicide, which is the theme of the novel. The novel follows the reflections of a narrator who finds himself in a sort of existential void. The work begins with the description of a world in which human beings seem to have disappeared, leaving the protagonist to deal with a desolate and lonely reality.

The protagonist of *Dissipatio H.G.* decides to drown himself in a strange lake at the bottom of a cave, in the mountains. But at the last moment he changes his mind and goes back. Humanity, in that brief interval, has disappeared, evaporated. Everything else has remained intact.

Thus, paradoxically, humanity is now represented by a single person who was on the verge of abandoning it and who, in any case, does not feel suited to representing anything; not even, at times, himself. Then begins a passionate monologue, against the backdrop of absolute solitude and a silence broken only by the occasional animal voice or the hum of machines that continue to function. And it is a monologue that soon turns into a dialogue with all the dead, held by a single living person who at times thinks he too is dead.

Fragments of memories resurface, buried details resurface as decisive and, while thoughts crowd, the anonymous protagonist searches everywhere for some other survivor, wanders between hated and loved places, between his mountains and Chrysopolis. This situation of "dissipation" does not only concern the lack of other people, but also the idea of a dispersion of identity and sense of self.

The protagonist's solitude highlights the existential theme, and the lack of human interactions provokes a deep reflection on individual identity and our interconnection with others. The work can also be interpreted as a criticism of contemporary society and the loss of meaning in everyday life. The absence of others therefore becomes a symbol of an era in which human contact is superficial or absent.